

Message Text

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SUBJ: WOLFF LAUDS THAI, URGES GREATER BURMESE ANTI-NARCOTICS
EFFORTS

U.S. CONGRESSMAN LESTER L. WOLFF (DEMOCRAT-NEW YORK)
SAID JANUARY 17 THAILAND "IS DOING WHAT IT CAN " TO SUPPRESS
NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, BUT BANGKOK'S EFFORTS WILL BE WASTED
WITHOUT "GREATER COOPERATION" FROM BURMA.

WOLFF, SPEAKING AT A BANGKOK AIRPORT NEWS CONFERENCE
FOLLOWING A FOUR-HOUR VISIT HE AND TEN OTHER CONGRESSMEN
MADE TO THE THAI CAPITAL, SAID THAT "ALTHOUGH THE BURMESE HAVE BEEN
GIVING INCREASED COOPERATION TO THE UNITED STATES, THE
AREAS THAT ARE NOT UNDER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
CONTROL CONTINUE TO PLY THE NARCOTICS TRADE." WAYS HAVE
TO BE FOUND TO REACH PEOPLE NOT UNDER RANGOON CONTROL AND
TO HALT THE NARCOTICS FLOW, WOLFF SAID.

"UNLESS WE GET GREATER COOPERATION FROM BURMA, ALL
THE EFFORTS THAT THE THAIS MAKE WILL BE REALLY TO NO AVAIL,
AND THE PROBLEM IS GOING TO CONTINUE TO PLAGUE US."

WOLFF AND THE CONGRESSMEN WITH HIM LUNCHEDED WITH PRIME
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MINISTER KRIANGSAK CHAMANAND AT HIS HOME BEFORE FLYING
TO NEW DELHI. THE LAWMAKERS ATTENDED
THE U.S. EAST ASIAN REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK
IN SINGAPORE. WOLFF SPOKE AT LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE HELD
IN BANGKOK.

WOLFF DESCRIBED HIS TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK

AS "VERY FRANK." THE THAI LEADER " PLEDGED A RENEWED EFFORT"
TO SOLVE THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM, THE CONGRESSMAN
SAID.

REPLYING TO QUESTIONS, WOLFF SAID PENANG AND OTHER
PORTS ARE TAKING THE PLACE OF BANGKOK AS A NARCOTICS EXPORT
CENTER BECAUSE OF VIGOROUS THAI NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION WORK.

THE MAIN PROBLEM NOW, WOLFF SAID. IS THE SERIES OF
NARCOTICS PROCESSING LABORATORIES ALONG THE BURMESE
SIDE OF THE BORDER WITH THAILAND. "WE MUST FIND SOME WAY
OR MEANS OF DESTROYING THOSE LABORATORIES," WOLFF DECLARED.
DEMAND FOR NARCOTICS MUST ALSO DECLINE, HE SAID, BY "REDUCING
THE REASONS" PEOPLE TAKE DRUGS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WOLFF DEFENDED HIS DISCLOSURE IN WASHINGTON LAST YEAR
OF TWELVE TOP NARCOTICS DEALERS, SAYING MANY HAVE SINCE
BEEN ARRESTED BY THAI AUTHORITIES, OR GONE INTO HIDING.
"OTHERS OF THEM HAVE EVEN STOPPED TRAFFICKING," HE REMARKED.

"SOME OTHERS WHO OPERATED UNDER VERY DEEP COVERS HAVE
BEEN FOUND TO HAVE LARGE CACHES IN THEIR HOMES OR IN THEIR
OFFICES AND HAVE NOW BEEN APPREHENDED BY THE THAI POLICE,"
WOLFF CONTINUED.

ONE OF THE CONGRESSMEN IN THE WOLFF PARTY, "REPRE-
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SENTATIVE DONALD J. MITCHELL (REPUBLICAN-NEW YORK) SAID
THAT A THAI OFFICIAL AT THE KRINGSAK-HOSTED LUNCHEON TOLD
HIM OF THAILAND'S CONCERN ABOUT INADEQUATE AMERICAN WEAPONS
SUPPLIES FOR THAI DEFENSE. MITCHELL SAID THA THAI CONCERN
WILL BE CONVEYED TO WASHINGTON. " WE WANT TO BE SURE THAT
OUR FRIENDS DO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THEM SOLVE
THEIR OWN PROBLEMS OF SECURITY AS WELL AS DEFENSE," HE
TOLD NEWSMEN.

WOLFF SAID THE UNITED STATES HAS A "CONTINUED INTEREST
IN ASIA." AMERICAN INTEREST IN THE REGION "IS NOT FLAGGING
BY ANY MEANS," DESPITE THE "READJUSTMENT" OF AMERICAN ARMED
FORCE DEPLOYMENT IN ASIA, HE SAID.

ONE IDEA HIS GROUP IS INTERESTED IN IS PROMOTING AN
ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY TO UNDER-
SCORE U.S. CONCERN FOR ASIA.
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